

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ningning Xu Reg. No. L0293 on 11/17/2009 and Bea Koempel-Thomas Reg. No. 58,213 on 11/13/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

In Claim 1, replace “player character who” with – player character that --.

In Claim 23, replace “player character who” with – player character that --.

In Claim 31, replace “player character who” with – player character that --.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art for the features of the claimed invention are Shimakawa et al. (US Patent 7,275,987; hereinafter Shimakawa), DeStefano (US Patent 6,304,259),

Logg (US Patent 4,738,451), Johnson et al. (US Patent 6,591,250; hereinafter Johnson), and Martinez et al. (US Patent 6,119,229; hereinafter Martinez).

However, Shimakawa alone or in combination with DeStefano, Logg, Johnson and Martinez does not disclose an electronic device, method of operating the electronic device and computer readable medium that comprise a player character, at least one non-player character, plural virtual item icons that indicate virtual objects / virtual objects having attributes assigned during game play, a graphical scene describer, and an inventory management describer including an inventory filter icon / filter icons and a filter result display / an inventory display, wherein at least a portion of the plural virtual item icons are collected as possessions by the player character in the graphical scene describer by a game player controlling the player character, and wherein the inventory filter icon / filter icon is selected by the player and represents a filter that is activated to filter the collected plural virtual item icons / virtual objects, based on the respective attributes, that match the filter upon selection of the inventory filter icon, and wherein when the filter is activated, the filtered virtual item icons indication virtual objects / virtual objects are displayed on the filter result display / an inventory display so as to allow the player to determine which of the plural collected virtual objects are to be disposed of or used during game play when the player character interacts with the at least one non-player character in the virtual world of the graphical scene describer. Thus, the claimed invention is not anticipated by nor obvious over the closest prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ARTHUR O. HALL whose telephone number is (571)270-1814. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri, 8:00am - 5:00 pm, Alt Fri, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on (571) 272-4690. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/A. O. H./
Examiner, Art Unit 3714